

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo © Paul O'Brien

June 2016

Visitors at the May Migration Celebration

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities *Volunteers especially needed for:*

Monarch Monitoring (*Training Thurs. 6/9, 1-3p*)—Observe monarch butterfly presence on the Refuge.

Visitor Center Host (*Saturdays July—Aug, 10a-4p*)—Greet guests and help keep our visitor center open.

Garden for Wildlife (*flexible commitment*)—Tidy up the landscaping around the visitor center.

Maintenance Crew Volunteers (*Wednesdays & Fridays, 7:45a-noon*)—Help with weed management.

What's New?

After a long hiatus, the Visitor Center's osprey nest camera is operational! The camera is not yet viewable online, but stop by the refuge and watch our osprey neighbors up close on a video monitor near the view window.

Cheers!

Many thanks to all the Discover Wildlife Journeys field trip volunteers for making our largest environmental education program of the year a success! Thanks also to our Migration Celebration volunteers for helping us put on this brand new family event.

Thanks to the Friends of Deer Flat for their grant-writing efforts that provided us with bus scholarship funds during our busy field trip season! See next column for information about joining the group!



Welcome to Idaho, Wylmarie!
(Photo USFWS/Irwin)

Around the Water Cooler

This month we welcome Wylmarie Cruz Serrano to the Deer Flat Team! She will be the refuge's Latino Outreach Fellow for the next 11 weeks. Wylmarie has worked with Para La Naturaleza, a conservation trust in Puerto Rico. She partnered with citizen scientists in the community to monitor coastline erosion. She is excited to continue her community outreach work by connecting kids to Deer Flat NWR, and says she is looking forward to this learning experience.

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports Refuge activities. Friends memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. Email friendsofdfwr@gmail.com for more info.



Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center.

Reading at the Refuge—June 6 & 20, 10a and 2p. Preschoolers are invited to a wildlife-focused story.

Biodiversity Basics Day

Camp July 25-29, 9a-12:30p

Explore the incredible variety of life in the world! Kids going into 4th & 5th grade hike through habitats, create field guides, and find out what it's like to be biologists! *Free! Register by July 11.*



Della M. Johnson Memorial Trail Dedication (Photo © Martin Hooker)

Desert Detectives Day

Camp August 8-12, 9a-

12:30p Come discover how plants, animals, and people survive in the desert of southwest Idaho. Kids going into 2nd & 3rd grade dissect owl pellets, explore a wetland, create field guides, and more!

Free! Register by July 25.

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

Think you might not have the skills needed to help? Don't worry! Training is provided.

Monarch Monitoring—New training date June 9, 1-3p. Monarch butterfly populations have declined drastically. Participate in citizen science by monitoring a milkweed patch on the Refuge for eggs, caterpillars, and adults.

Visitor Center Host—Saturdays (July-September) 10a-4p. Greet Refuge visitors, answer phones, and help staff with various projects.

Garden for Wildlife—flexible time commitment. Help keep the xeriscape, pollinator garden, and other Visitor Center landscaping looking nice for visitors.

Maintenance Crew Volunteers — Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:45a-12p. Like to work outdoors? Come on out and help with weed management and other miscellaneous maintenance tasks.

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Nampa Farmers Market Refuge

Outreach—May-Oct, 9a-1p. Take the lead to staff a table and spread the word about the refuge.

Environmental Education Activities

Ada Community Library Summer Reading

Kickoff—June 16, 1:15-3:30p. In the Animal Olympics, who will win? Help kids with this fun start-of-summer activity.

Wetland Wonders Program Assistants—July 19, 1-3p. Middleton Public Library. Help kids understand the importance of wetlands.

Migrant Summer School Field Trip

Assistants—July 22, 9:00-11:30a Get K-7 students excited about nature.

Summer Day Camps—July 25-29, August 8-12, 8a-1:30p. Help kids explore the diversity of life in July's Biodiversity Day Camp! In August, help our Desert Detectives learn the secrets of desert survival. Volunteers needed to co-lead, chaperone, and take photographs.